



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens
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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

FROM:  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Officer

DATE: January 9, 2008

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VIII: Consideration of a resolution authorizing an application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for a grant of Proposition 84 funds for the Marsh Park project.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing an application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for a grant of Proposition 84 funds for the Marsh Park project.

Legislative Authority: Joint Exercise of Powers Action (Public Resources Code Section 6500 *et seq.*)

Background: The Marsh Street Park project is located in the Los Angeles River adjacent community of Elysian Valley in the City of Los Angeles. In May 2006 the first phase of the park project was opened to the public. This phase of the project is less than one acre, is located at the terminus of Marsh Street and includes native landscaping, picnic amenities, play structures that represent native wildlife near the Los Angeles River, and a water quality enhancement feature that captures and infiltrates the residential run-off of Marsh Street. In September 2007 the skate park constructed and managed by Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust was opened.

Currently, the 5.4-acre Marsh Park site includes approximately 41,000 square feet of industrial space, an approximately .75-acre natural park, an approximately 2-acre vacant lot and an approximately .25-acre skate park. The largest building on site is leased to a company who finishes plate glass products. The smaller buildings are being leased to a storage company and a sewing company. The primary access to these buildings is from Gleneden Street. Construction documents have been completed for the approximately 2-acre vacant lot at the terminus of Rosanna Street.

Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) staff has been meeting with local stakeholders including Alianza de los Rios, Los Angeles City Council District 13, Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust, and River Project Office, Bureau of Engineering, City of Los Angeles to discuss the future phases of the park. A community meeting was held on December 8, 2007 to engage the community in discussions about the future of the park. Staff has requested a proposal to research the environmental and permitting requirements for demolition of the industrial buildings on site. Staff expects to receive this proposal soon. Staff is also preparing a request for proposals for the master planning of the entire 5.4-acre site in order to integrate all of the amenities.

MRCA will request funds for the master plan and for capitol improvements. MRCA will request the funds once staff has a refined budget of the projected expenses. Upon completion, Marsh Park will provide 700 feet of river frontage along one of the most scenic portions of the Los Angeles River.